

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as indicated hereafter. It is believed that the following amendments and additions add no new matter to the present application.

In the Specification:

Replace sentence 1 on page 1 with the following:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/322,555 filed May 28, 1999, which is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 08/823,007 filed March 21, 1997, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,052,384 on April 18, 2000.

Replace paragraph 2 on page 1 with the following:

A new problem in data transmission is the transmission of data that requires a high band width, is bursty, and has temporal constraints. Traditionally, data transmission has been done on the public switched networks provided by the telephone companies and on packet networks. The public switched networks are designed for interactive voice applications, and so provide relatively low-bandwidth circuits that satisfy stringent temporal constraints. The packet networks are designed for the transfer of data between computer systems. The only constraint is that the data eventually arrive at its destination. The amount of bandwidth available for a transfer depends on the degree of congestion in the network. The packet networks thus typically make no guarantees whatever about when or even in what order the data in a burst of data will arrive at its destination. As may be seen from the foregoing, neither the telephone network nor the packet network is well-adapted to handle high-bandwidth bursty data with time constraints. An example of such data is digital television which has been compressed according to the MPEG-2 standard. For details on the standard, see *Background Information on MPEG-1 and MPEG-2 Television Compression*, ~~which could be found in November 1996 at the URL~~ <http://www.edrevolution.com/text/mpeginfo.htm>.